



Grief and Grieving

Adult Education/Discipleship Training Ministry @ Immanuel

Sessions



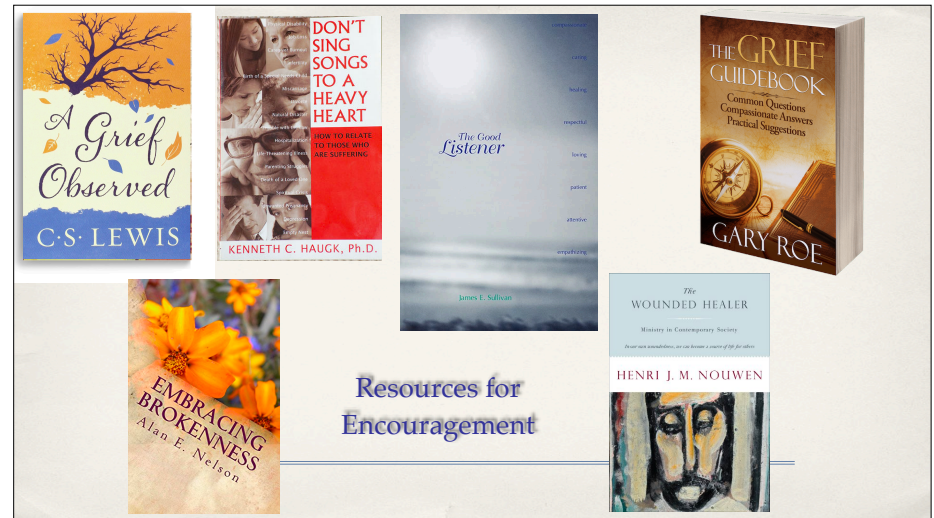
- 1 - April 2 - Intro - What is Grief? How does it affect our lives?
- 2 - April 16 - Grieving and the Promises of Christ's Resurrection Glory
- 3 - April 23 - A Stephen Minister's Perspective
- 4 - April 30 - Our Pastor's Perspective
- 5 - May 7 - Grieving, Prayer and Scripture
- 6 - May 14 - Wrap up and Q/A

Grief and Grieving

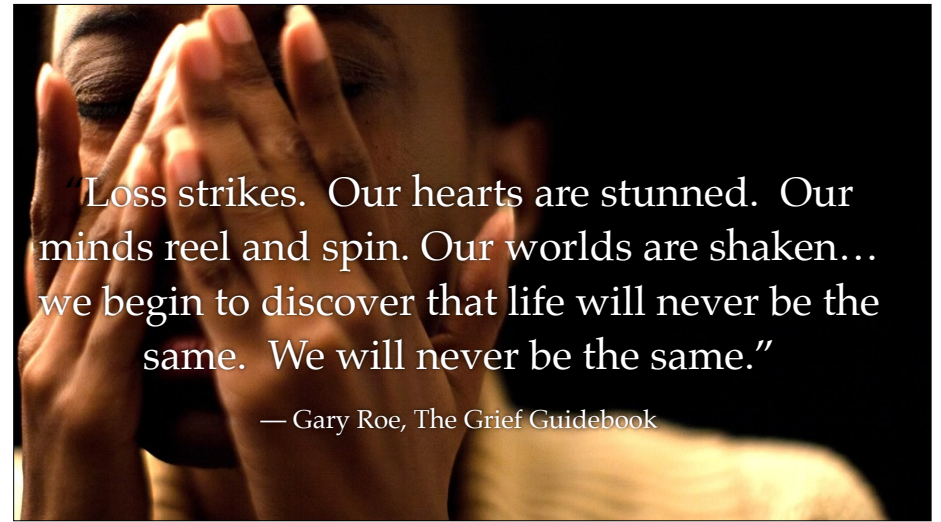
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NO CLASS
Easter Sunday!



Resources for
Encouragement



Loss strikes. Our hearts are stunned. Our minds reel and spin. Our worlds are shaken... we begin to discover that life will never be the same. We will never be the same."

— Gary Roe, *The Grief Guidebook*



“I thought I could describe a state; make a map of grief. Grief, however, turns out to be not a state but a process.”

— C.S. Lewis, A Grief Observed

“For in grief nothing stays put. One keeps on emerging from a phase, but it always recurs. Round and round. Everything repeats. Am I going in circles, or dare I hope I am on a spiral? But if a spiral, am I going up or down it? How often-will it be for always? - how often will the vast emptiness astonish me like a complete novelty and make me say, ‘I never realized my loss til this moment’? The same leg is cut off time after time.”

— C.S. Lewis, A Grief Observed

“You never know how much you really believe anything until its truth or falsehood becomes a matter of life and death to you. It is easy to say you believe a rope to be strong and sound as long as you are merely using it to cord a box. But suppose you had to hang by that rope over a precipice. Wouldn't you then first discover how much you really trusted it?”

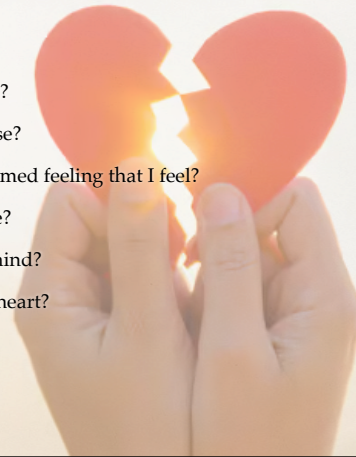
— C.S. Lewis, A Grief Observed

“Grief is like a long valley, a winding valley where any bend may reveal a totally new landscape.”

“I need Christ, not something that resembles Him.”

— C.S. Lewis, A Grief Observed

How could this happen?
Why does it hurt so much?
Why can't I stop crying?
I can't cry, what's wrong with me?
What or Who else am I going to lose?
What do I do with the anger, guilt, emotional overwhelmed feeling that I feel?
Why don't I feel like ME anymore?
Am I going crazy? Am I losing my mind?
How do I stop the HURT I feel in my heart?
Why am I so confused?
Where is Jesus?
Why did this happen?



“Blessed are those who mourn (Greek pentheo - lament, manifest grief, feel guilt or loss), for they will be comforted.”

— Jesus, Matthew 5:4

Don't have time to fully exegete this passage:

SO, let's say this - when Kingdom of God meets you, you receive the gift of God's "shalom" in God's comfort and presence and peace!

"So many things to break the heart! But as they (we) see the kingdom in Jesus, enter it, and learn to live in it, they (we) find comfort, and their (our) tears turn to laughter. Yes, they (we) are even better off than they (we) were before their (our) particular disaster."

- Dallas Willard, Divine Conspiracy

Asher - Hebrew ("orientation, demeanor")
Makarios - Greek ("blessed")
"Beatus" - Latin (where we get "beautitudes")

We look at blessedness as either a feeling, formula, bargain or something materialistically conditional:

“I am blessed because I feel happy” (feeling)

“I will be blessed if I do_____” (formula)

“God, I will do _____ and you will bless me” (bargain)

“I am blessed because I have _____ or am going through this circumstance...”(conditional or material)

We expect, “blessed are you
WHEN you have or **IF** you have
or feel...”

But Jesus says, “blessed **ARE**
you...”

Pursuit of Happiness - EXHAUSTS
Embrace of Blessedness - EMPOWERS

BLESSEDNESS is a Kingdom Reality

“Look at the joy of the people who are
resting in the reality of God’s Kingdom...”
“Look at how the Kingdom of God has
manifested itself in this person’s life...”

In other words, blessedness already exists
because of Jesus and because **YOU** are
resting in Him!

Jesus says, “you are blessed because God”...period”

Blessed is anyone who is alive in the Kingdom of God

To be in the Kingdom of God is to be blessed no matter what else happens in your life - your past has been dealt with, your present is redeemed/ graced, your future is secured



What is Grief?

“Grief is the acute pain that accompanies loss. Because it is a reflection of what we love, it can feel all-encompassing. Grief is not limited to the loss of people, but when it follows the loss of a loved one, it may be compounded by feelings of guilt and confusion, especially if the relationship was a difficult one.”

What is Grief?

Human Grief

Divine Grief

Human Grief

“Grief is a state of intense sadness that is typically associated with the loss of a significant person or aspect of one's life. It is not a state that most of us embrace, because it is associated with a permanent life change accompanied by intense sadness...”

Human Grief

“Grief is a pain of heart, spirit, soul, mind produced by loss, misfortune, injury or evils of any kind; sorrow; regret. We experience grief when we lose a friend, when we incur loss, when we consider ourselves injured, and by sympathy, we feel grief at the misfortunes of others...”

Human Grief

“Grief is a pain of heart, spirit, soul, mind occasioned by our own misconduct; sorrow or regret that we have done wrong; pain accompanying repentance. We feel grief when we have offended or injured a friend, and the consciousness / awareness of having offended the Lord God (through sin and sins), fills the penitent heart with the most poignant grief.”

Divine Grief

“Scripture often speaks of God as being grieved or experiencing grief. This holds true for each member of the Trinity. In Genesis 6:6-8 the Father is grieved because of the sinfulness of the human race. The disobedience of Israel and the church grieves the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 63:10 ; Ephesians 4:30)...”

Divine Grief

“Jesus, the Son of God is a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief (Isa 53:3-10 ; Matt 23:37-39 ; Luke 13:34-35 ; John 11:35). Our awareness of Divine Grief is a theological and practical (redemptive) awareness of the very character / disposition of God (and the fact that we are made in His image)...”

Divine Grief

“The grief of God testifies to the dynamic, living relationship that exists between God and humankind. God is grieved when his covenantal love is rebuffed by human disobedience and sin. Yet His anguished response to sin / grief actually becomes a springboard to His action of judgment / mercy / compassion / redemption / salvation through the life, death, resurrection of Jesus AND His eschatological purposes for the restoration of His Creation Vision.”

What is Grief?

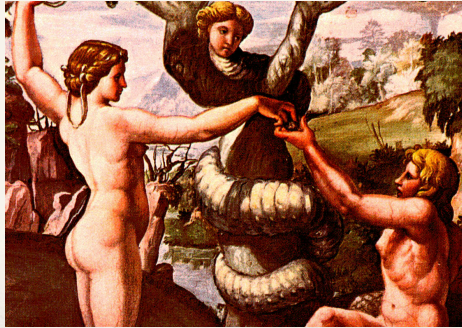
To be human, to be created “imago Dei,” we experience loss...we experience Grief

The issue isn't IF we experience Grief - the issue is once we do experience it, what do we do with it? where do we take it? how do we meet Jesus in the midst of it? how does God ultimately work His will and purposes through it?

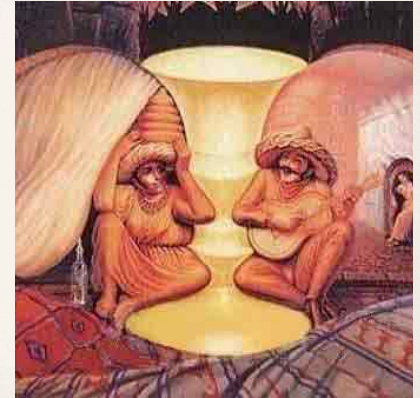
What is the root cause of Grief?

Experiential Reality
of Suffering, Sin and
Evil

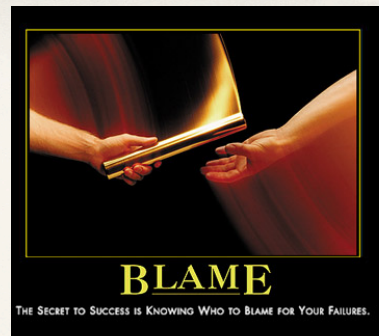
Making Sense of
Suffering



Suffering in an
Illusion



Suffering is
God's Fault



Suffering is
result of a
broken world

Human
Freedom -
responsibility



IN THE MIDST OF A SUFFERING WORLD
GOD DOESN'T SPEAK WORDS OF "WHY"
BUT THE WORD REDEMPTIVELY SPEAKS AND
DYNAMICALLY AND TRANSFORMATIONALLY ACTS

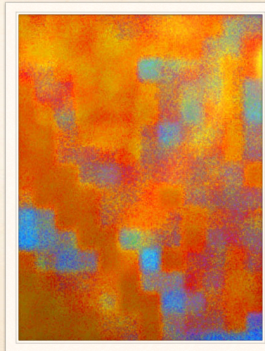
Genesis 1

GOD BROUGHT ORDER FROM
CHAOS



Genesis 3

HUMANITY BROUGHT CHAOS TO
ORDER



Big Idea

Evil exists and
will ultimately
and decisively
be dealt with by
a Holy God



Evil

- Surprise
- Progressive Mythology
- Humanity is flawed and Unfixable and Unredeemable
- Ignore as illusion
- Evil is really good
- Dualism
- Gnosticism
- Relativism
- Victimization
- Shame



Christianity...

Experiential origin of Evil lies in the abusive exertion of human free will and is profoundly relational - God is NOT the author of evil



What God is doing...

- Confronting
- Judging
- Healing
- Holding evil off from having ultimate affect



What God is doing...

And often, when God confronts evil He uses US!
How?



What God is doing...

When God confronts evil, He uses US!

You bring Jesus and your own suffering/grieving into the suffering/grieving relationship.

We are “wounded/grieving” healers - 2 Corinthians 1



What God is doing...

3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. 4 He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. 5 For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his comfort through Christ. 6 Even when we are weighed down with troubles, it is for your comfort and salvation! For when we ourselves are comforted, we will certainly comfort you. Then you can patiently endure the same things we suffer. 7 We are confident that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in the comfort God gives us.

God does NOT abolish evil

Why not?



God decisively acts:

Jesus took on the worst of evil and “exhausted” it. Jesus confronted evil and suffering and makes His victory a living reality!



Now What?

"It isn't that the cross has won the victory, so there's nothing more to be done. Rather, the cross has won the victory as a result of which there are now redeemed human beings getting ready to act as God's wise agents, his stewards, constantly worshipping their Creator and constantly, as a result, being equipped to reflect His image into His creation, to bring His wise and healing order to the world, putting the world to rights under His just and gentle rule."

N.T. Wright



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